

Are you there, Baby Bear?

CATHERINE WALTERS



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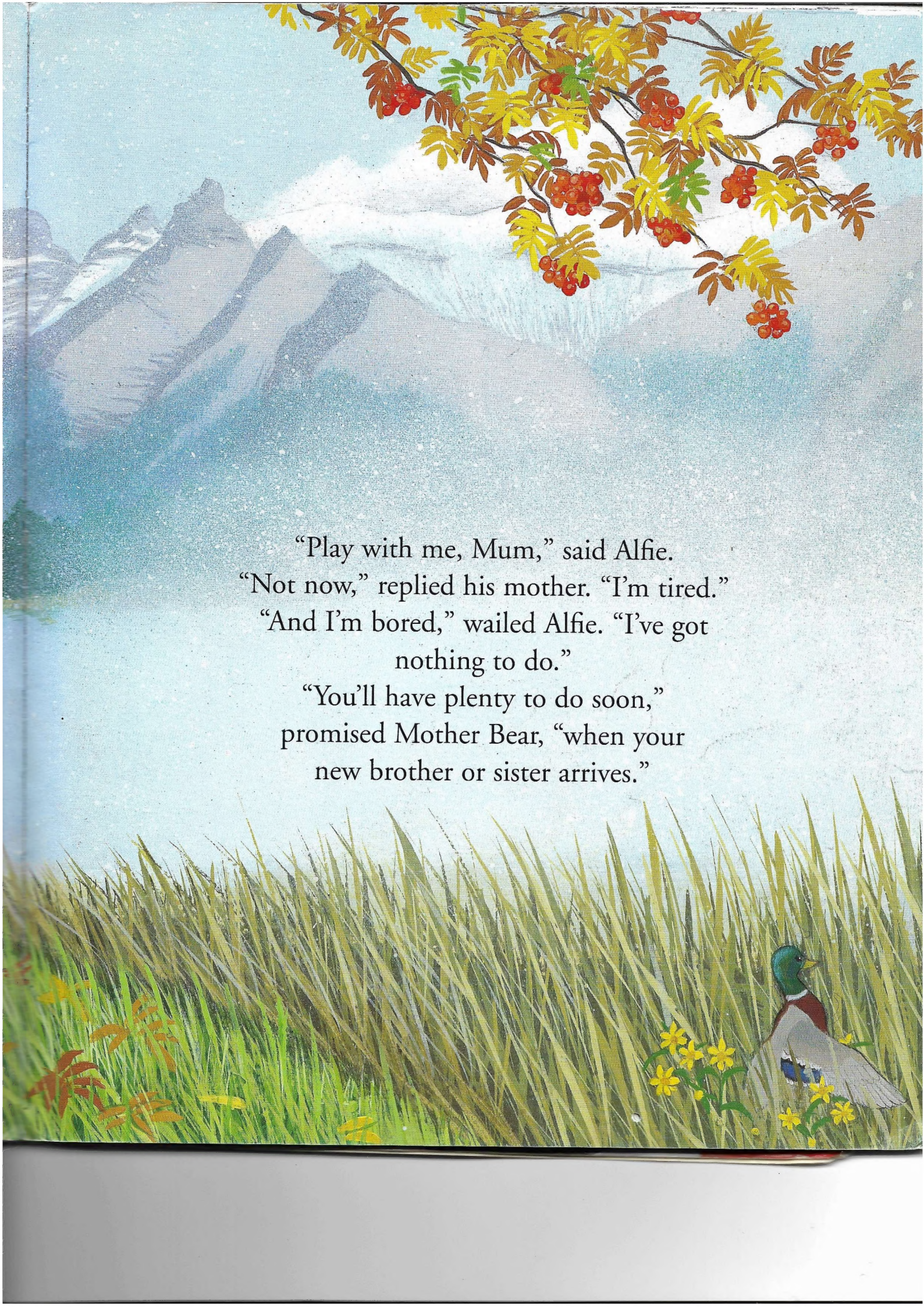
Are you there,
Baby Bear?



CATHERINE WALTERS

LITTLE TIGER PRESS





“Play with me, Mum,” said Alfie.
“Not now,” replied his mother. “I’m tired.”
“And I’m bored,” wailed Alfie. “I’ve got
nothing to do.”
“You’ll have plenty to do soon,”
promised Mother Bear, “when your
new brother or sister arrives.”

A new brother or sister!
Alfie couldn't wait.



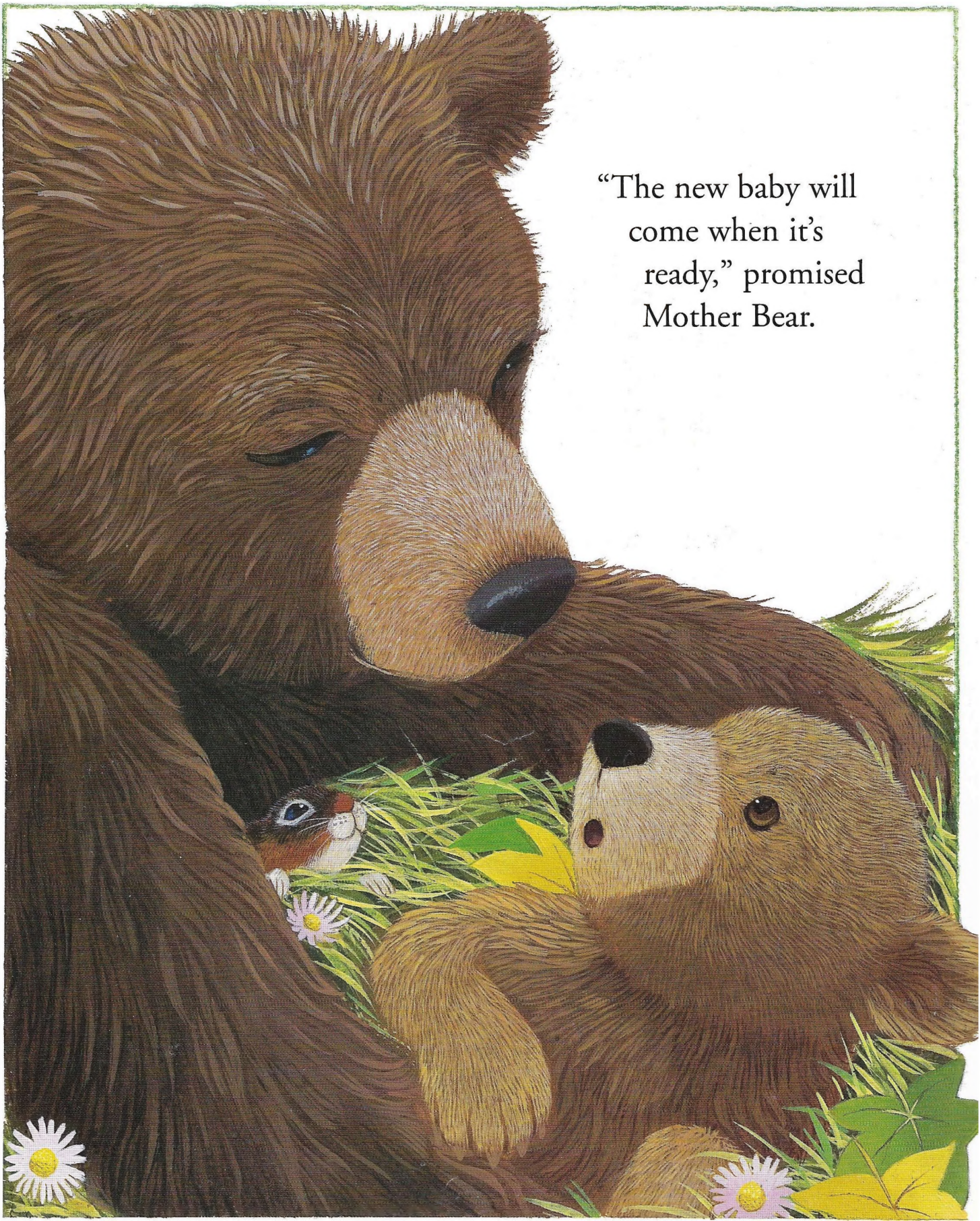
Every morning he asked Mother Bear,
"Is my new brother coming today?"



And every evening at bedtime he said,
"Will my sister come tonight?"



“The new baby will
come when it’s
ready,” promised
Mother Bear.



The weather grew colder and it was nearly time for the bears' winter sleep, but still the baby bear had not arrived.

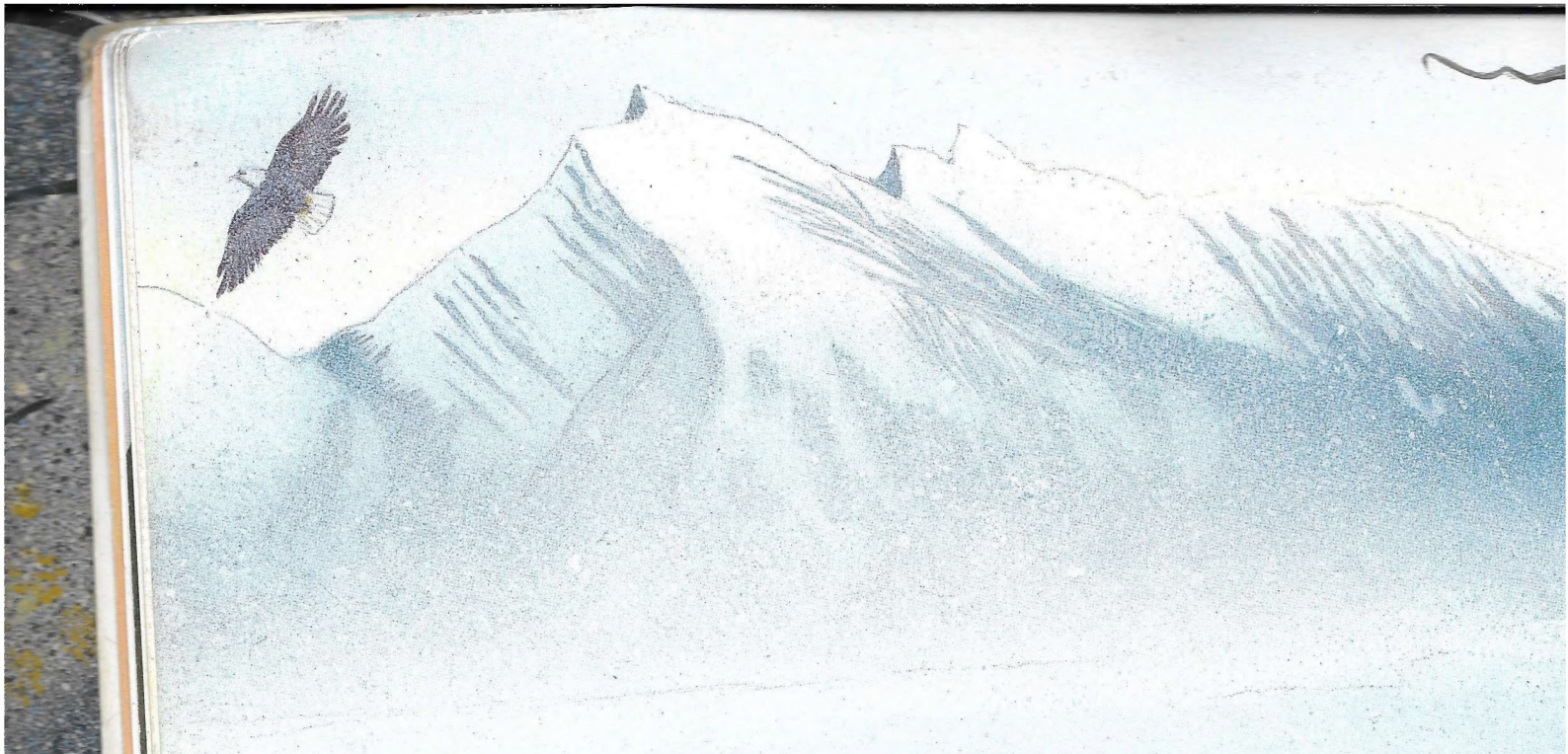
"It might be lost," worried Alfie. "Perhaps it can't find its way in the snow."



So one morning, very early, Alfie crept out of the cave to go looking for his baby brother or sister.







Alfie walked to the edge of the frozen lake,
where the ducks were waddling in the reeds.
And there, where the sun was melting the ice,
Alfie saw – *a baby bear!*
“Are you my new brother?” he called out.







"Sorry, little bear, I'm not your new brother,"
said Beaver, slapping her tail. "I'll look out
for him, though, and send him home if
I see him."

Alfie thanked her. "Perhaps the new baby's
in the meadow," he thought.



In the meadow the mountain hares
bounded across Alfie's path.
And there, through the frozen bracken,
Alfie saw – *a baby bear!*
“Are you my new sister?” he shouted.





"Certainly not!" snorted Bison, standing up and shaking himself. "I'm afraid she's not your little sister. She's mine!"

Bison's sister sniffed Alfie all over. "We'll let you know if we see any bears," she said.

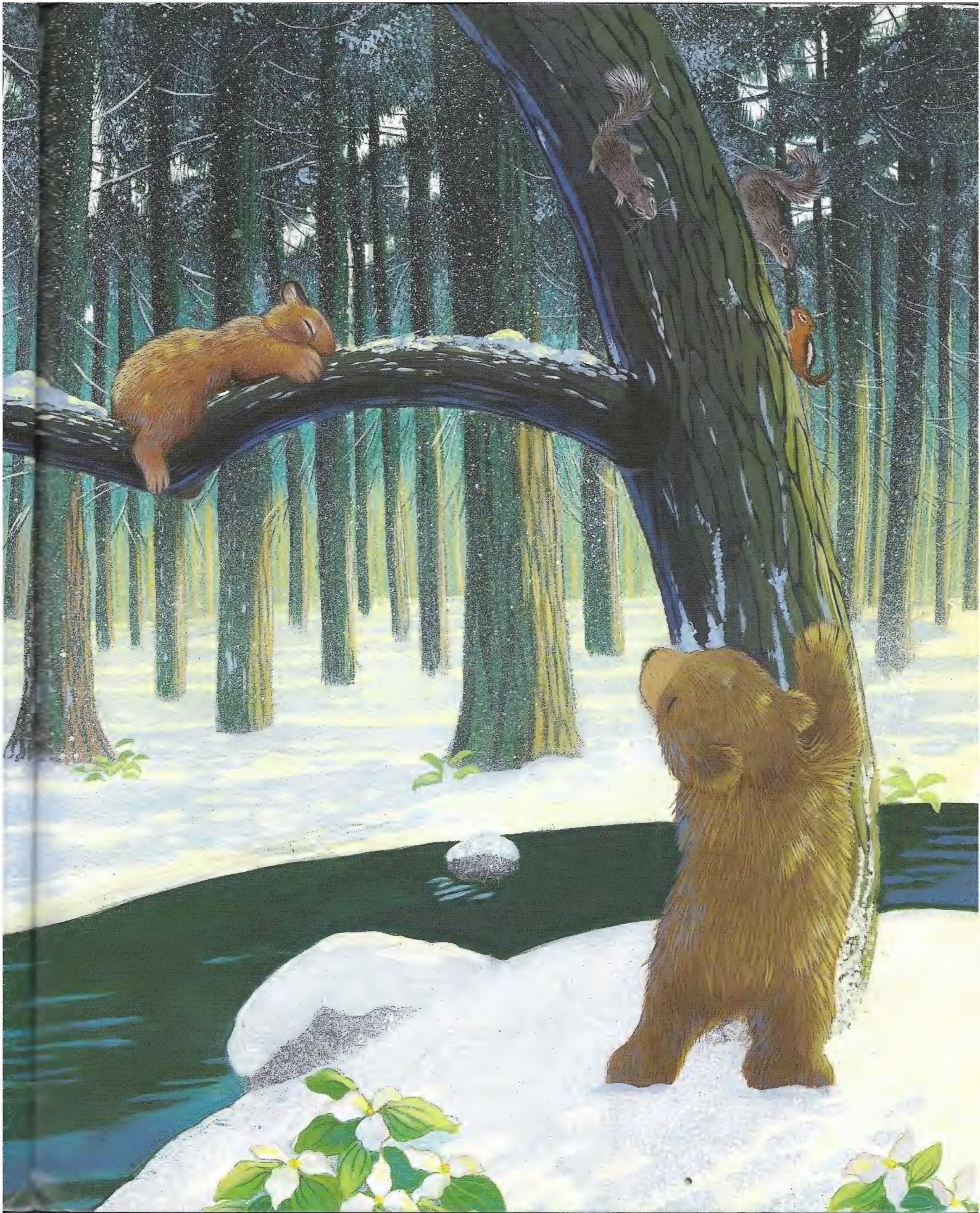
"Thank you," said Alfie. "I think I'll go and look in the woods."





In the woods the squirrels leapt and
chased each other through the trees.
And, stretched along a tree branch,
Alfie saw – *a baby bear!*
“Are you our new baby?” he yelled.





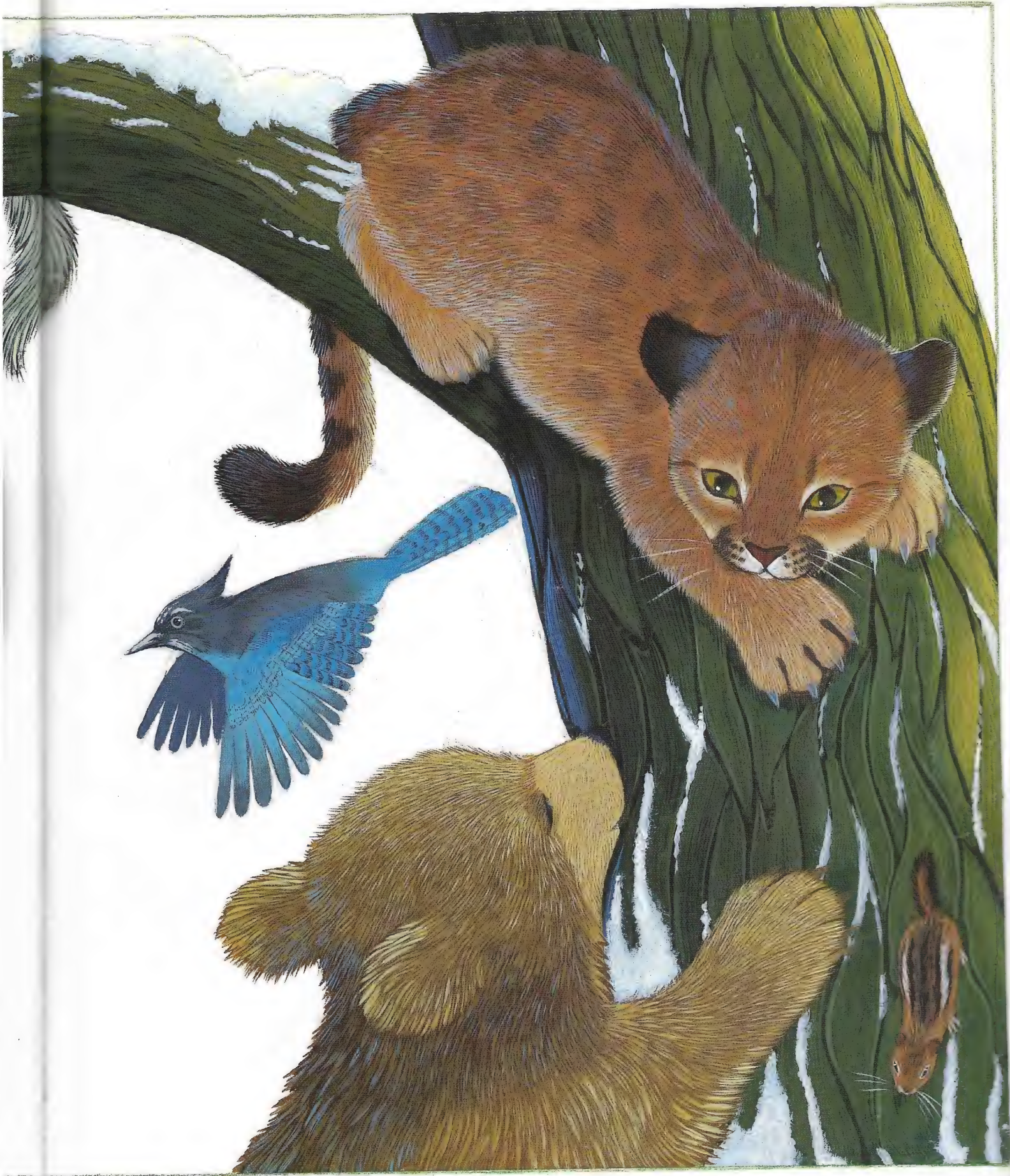


“Certainly not!” yawned Mountain Lion,
staring down at Alfie’s worried face.

“But as you’ve woken me up I’ll watch out
for baby bears if you like.”

Alfie sighed. He was beginning to wonder
if he’d *ever* find Baby Bear!







Alfie plodded on. He saw wolves and deer and sleepy brown owls, but no baby bears. He was a long way from home and he was cold and tired. Just as he was wondering what to do next, Alfie saw Father Bear coming towards him. "There you are, Alfie," cried Father Bear. "We've been looking for you all day." And, very gently, he picked Alfie up and carried him all the way home.







Mother Bear was waiting for them by the cave.
"I've been out looking for our baby," Alfie told her.

"But there were no baby bears *anywhere*."

"Oh Alfie," said Mother Bear, cuddling him close.

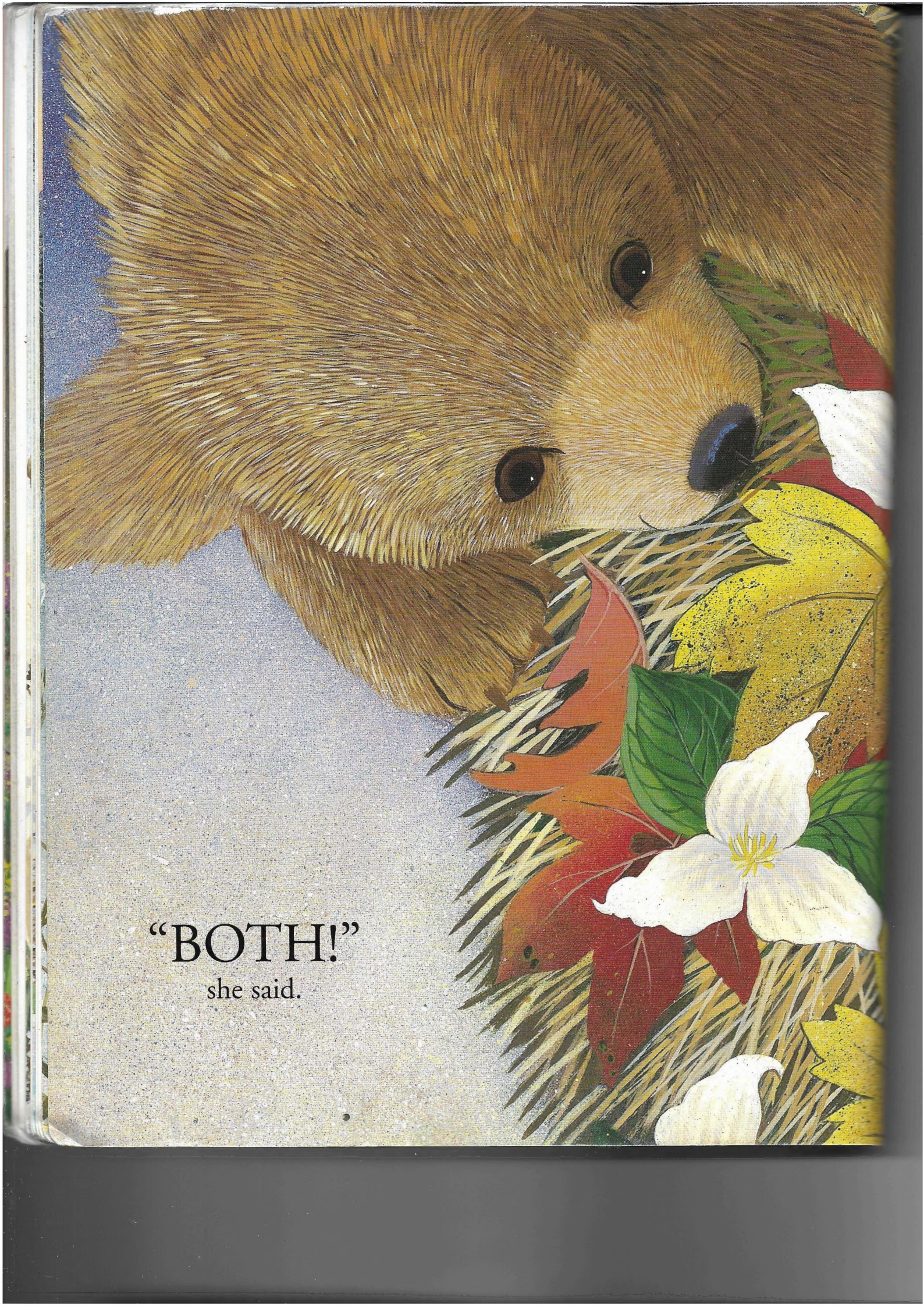
"You didn't look here, did you?"



Alfie peered into the darkness of the cave and his eyes grew round. "Is it a baby brother or a sister?"

he whispered. Mother Bear took his paw and they all crept inside.





"BOTH!"
she said.





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Alfie is very excited when he hears that he is to have a baby brother or sister. But the days go by and the weather turns cold, and still the baby bear doesn't arrive. Alfie is worried that it might be lost in the snow, so one day, he sets off alone to look for it . . .

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